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3.5(c)

~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

INR AFTERNOON SUMMARY

September 7, 1976

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INR AFTERNOON SUMMARY September 7, 1976

ARGENTINA ACTS AGAINST RIGHT-WING TERRORISM

In the face of mounting domestic and international criticism, President Videla recently ordered the dismemberment of a right-wing counterterrorist unit which has existed within the Federal police since 1973 [redacted] 3.3(b)(1)

3.3(b)(1) [redacted] Responding to a presidential directive, police chief Ojeda quietly disbanded the Center for Counter-insurgency Training, which specialized in murdering leftists and training other police and army personnel to do likewise.

Ojeda's move against the Center may indicate a significent shift in official priorities. To date, the battle against the terrorist left has taken precedence, and the government has been willing to pay the political price inherent in the use of every available resource, including the services of the rightist goon squads. Videla and others who do not approve of the excesses apparently tolerated them in the belief that punishing guilty police and military personnel would dampen the morale and inhibit the effectiveness of the security forces.

Videla may now believe that the security situation has improved to the point where the political cost of right-wing brutality is prohibitive. If this is true, we can expect continued efforts to control the activities of right-wing elements both within and without the security forces.

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